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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An exhaust gas purification catalyst comprising a metallic carrier, an undercoat layer disposed on a surface of said carrier, and said undercoat layer comprising a heat-resistant inorganic oxide having an oxygen-absorbing substance added thereto and characterized by the absence of a noble metal, and a catalyst-carrying layer disposed on said undercoat layer and having a catalyst supported thereon.

2. (original) An exhaust gas purification catalyst as claimed in claim 1 wherein said carrier comprises a cylindrical punching metal made of heat-resisting stainless steel.

3. (original) An exhaust gas purification catalyst as claimed in claim 1 wherein said oxygen-absorbing substance comprises cerium oxide or a double oxide of cerium and zirconium.

4. (original) An exhaust gas purification catalyst as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heat-resistant inorganic oxide comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, aluminum silicate and alkali metal silicates.

5. (previously presented) An exhaust gas purification catalyst as claimed in claim 1 wherein said catalyst-carrying layer comprises one or more noble metals selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium and rhodium, and a metallic oxide comprising activated alumina.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A two-wheeled or four-wheeled motor vehicle ~~equipped with~~ comprising:

an exhaust gas discharge system using an exhaust gas purification catalyst, wherein the exhaust gas purification catalyst ~~comprising~~ comprises a metallic carrier, an

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undercoat layer disposed on a surface of said carrier and comprising a heat-resistant inorganic oxide having an oxygen-absorbing substance added thereto and characterized by the absence of a noble metal, and a catalyst-carrying layer disposed on said undercoat layer and having a catalyst supported thereon.

8. (currently amended) A vehicle as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said carrier comprises a cylindrical punching metal made of heat-resisting stainless steel.

9. (previously presented) A vehicle as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said oxygen-absorbing substance comprises cerium oxide or a double oxide of cerium and zirconium.

10. (previously presented) A vehicle as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said heat-resistant inorganic oxide comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, aluminum silicate and alkali metal silicates.

11. (previously presented) A vehicle as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said catalyst-carrying layer comprises one or more noble metals selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium and rhodium, and a metallic oxide comprising activated alumina.

12. (new) An exhaust gas purification catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein said undercoat layer consists essentially of:

at least one oxygen-absorbing substance selected from the group consisting of cerium oxide and a double oxide of cerium and zirconium; and

at least one heat-resistant inorganic oxide selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, aluminum silicate and alkali metal silicates.

13. (new) A vehicle as claimed in claim 7, wherein said undercoat layer consists essentially of:

at least one oxygen-absorbing substance selected from the group consisting of cerium oxide and a double oxide of cerium and zirconium; and

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at least one heat-resistant inorganic oxide selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, aluminum silicate and alkali metal silicates.

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